

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
December 7, 2007**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Marriott North in Indianapolis, Indiana on December 7, 2007.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: John Sharpnack, Kim Hall, Joseph Meek, William Nelson, Jesse Villalpando, H.L. Whitis and Robert Altice, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer and David Remondini provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Introduction of new members.** Judge Altice introduced the new members appointed to the committee in September: Gail Bardach, Sally Blankenship, Joseph Meek, Jeffrey Thode, Joseph Trout, and Jesse Villalpando.
4. **Courtroom Cameras.** Judge Altice explained that the Supreme Court's pilot project allowing cameras in 8 courtrooms throughout the state will end on December 31st. He suggested that the committee consider review how other states have dealt with cameras in courtrooms.
5. **Indiana Judicial Advisory Committee on Media Relations and Fire Brigade.** Judge Altice explained that the Supreme Court formed the Indiana Judicial Advisory Committee in 2003. The purpose of the advisory group is to improve the public's understanding of Indiana Courts. The group consists of media representatives and the membership of the Community Relations Committee. The advisory group did not meet in 2007, and Judge Altice stated that he would like to get the group back on track in 2008. Judge Altice also explained that the Supreme Court formed a Fire Brigade several years ago. The Fire Brigade was modeled after a program developed in the state of Washington, and the purpose is to help resolve issues that develop between the courts and the news media.
6. **Ideas for 2008.** Judge Altice asked the committee members to think about possible ideas for improving public understanding of the courts and to bring the ideas to the spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
Staff Attorney
Indiana Judicial Center